THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 15, No. 7 (Broadcast 704) February 17, 1969 Dallas, Texas

DAN SMOOT

PROTEST AND PURPOSE

From January 31 to February 2, 1969, the first national meeting of the Association of Wallace Voters was held in Dallas. The meeting was called by Robert J. Walters, interim national coordinator of the Association (3750 West 6th Street, Los Angeles 90005). It was attended by about 375 people from 37 states — people who were active in 1968 as local or state leaders in the American Independent Party campaign for George Wallace. I was not a delegate to this meeting, attended none of its sessions, and took no part in its deliberations; but I was a guest at the banquet on the evening of February 1.

On that occasion, I made a brief speech defining the principles which I think a new party must espouse if it is to become a permanent and important political force. The following is from that speech (published here in response to requests):

I have acquired a reputation of being against everything. But I am not, really.

The fact that I am against practically everything our government has been doing for a generation is quite secondary to the fact that I am positively — even aggressively — *for* legal, constitutional government.

Being a positive optimist, I can nearly always find a silver lining somewhere. For example, when I contemplate the records of the Republican and Democrat parties, I am grateful that only one of them at a time can win a presidential election.

Workers in the American Independent Party had something positive to rejoice about last year. They not only had the fun of terrifying the two old parties into a state of near-apoplexy, but they also had the satisfaction of being in the only political party in American history which, though defeated, elected a President. That spurious Republican slogan — "A vote for Wallace is a vote for Humphrey" turned out to be 180 degrees wrong. It was votes for Wallace that defeated Humphrey.

How could a man like Hubert Humphrey come so perilously close to being elected President of the United States? That is a sobering question. An easy answer might be that, after five years of Lyndon Baines Johnson, even Hubert looked vapidly harmless. But there is more to it than that.

In 1948, Humphrey was universally recognized as a dedicated socialist. In 1968, the Democrats presented him as their conservative candidate, though he had not changed in the 20-year interim. Now, he projects, for many, the image of comforting familiarity. *There* is the threat to our constitutional Repub-

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

Copyright by Dan Smoot, 1969. Second Class mail privilege authorized at Dallas, Texas.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

lic: the rationale of socialism has come to be accepted as an argument for the status quo.

Concern for the survival of our Republic, I am sure, brought all of you to this meeting tonight, just as it sent me from Texas to Massachusetts and back again last year, campaigning for George Wallace.

That brought me some canceled subscriptions from Nixon supporters — and some harsh criticism. For example, one reader who canceled his subscription to my *Report* accused me of having sold out the cause I had long supported. He had learned — on excellent authority, he said — that a millionaire who subsidizes me had ordered me to come out for Wallace. That kind of criticism was easy to handle. I do not have any millionaire subsidizer. *The Dan Smoot Report* is, and always has been, a free enterprise business operation, kept afloat by people who buy subscriptions. The only payroll I am on is my own.

I did not, as some of my irate subscribers alleged, get rich by charging high fees for making Wallace speeches. I accepted no fees for any of my political speech-making.

Next month, I go back to professional speaking for a fee, which provides a part of my bread-and-butter income; and I anticipate repetition of a question often asked me last year: how could I — for 20 years unyielding in my demand for a return to legal, constitutional government — support a political party whose platform made almost as many promises of illegal, unconstitutional, welfare-state activities as could be found in the platforms of the two old parties?

It is a fair question.

I did not compromise my principles. Even while actively supporting Wallace, I criticized his proposals which I thought conflicted with constitutional principles.

I concentrated on pointing out that Governor Wallace was the only candidate who offered fundamental change from the existing, disastrous course of domestic and foreign policies. He was the only one who held out *hope* of restoring constitutional government. He was the only one whose proposed policies for defense and foreign affairs emphasized first and foremost the security and independence of the United States.

Most people who supported Governor Wallace last year did so, I suspect, because they are weary of party factionalism and petty struggles for personal advancement. They are weary of the periodic shifts of power from one group of welfare-staters to another. They hoped, through the Wallace candidacy, to create a new party dedicated to restoring American constitutional government.

The American Independent Party began as a party of protest. That is regular. History proves that every great movement which improved government started as a protest.

History also proves that unless the protest is infused with untarnished principles to give it the dignity of high purpose, it will become, at best, a lost dream. It usually degenerates into a pitiful convulsion of frustration.

You have met here to plan the future of your party; but your party has no future unless it is dedicated to restoration of constitutional government.

What is constitutional government?

The Constitution is an inviolable contract providing for wide dispersion of political power. Federal power is limited to what is clearly specified in the Constitution. This means that the federal government has no legal, constitutional authority to operate a compulsory social security system, dispense welfare and free lunches, pay for medical services, or give aid to foreign governments, states, cities, schools, farms, or businesses.

When the federal government is permitted to violate the Constitution and engage in such activities, there is no brake on governmental power. The floodgates are opened; and, anon, dictatorship will pour in.

Therefore, the Constitution left exclusively with the states (or the people thereof) the latent, un-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

defined powers of government. State governments can legally experiment with social legislation. If *they* err, the example and competition of other states can induce correction.

If the people want the federal government to do something not constitutionally authorized, they should amend their Constitution (change their contract of government) and grant the federal establishment the additional power they want it to have.

That is American constitutional government.

If you allow federal officials, at their own discretion, to change the meaning of the Constitution, then you do not really have a Constitution. Constitutional government erodes away, and eventually vanishes; and, in its place, there grows the ultimate enemy of liberty: lawless, uncontrollable government.

Unless your condidates and platforms stand for constitutional principles, there is no reason for your party to exist. If you want to participate in the activity of acquiring political power by buying votes with the voters' own money, work in one of the old parties. In this activity, they both have experience, tradition, expertise, organization, and leadership — because they have been at it for a generation. You will never build a party that can outdo them, or even match them, in that field.

There are those among you who say you must be pragmatic and support popular federal programs until you can build strength and acquire political power. *Then* you can expose your principles and real purpose.

No intelligent person believes the socialist revolution in the United States can be instantly turned back, or even abruptly halted. But to conceal your purpose — eventual elimination of the federal government's illegal socialist activities — is dishonest. Hence, I say as Thomas Jefferson said:

"In questions of political power, speak to me not of confidence in men, but bind them down from mischief with the chains of a Constitution."

That includes George Wallace, Dan Smoot, or anyone else who may ever seek or hold political office.

If I have offended any of you, let me know; and I will forgive you.

Constitutionalists today are in a position comparable to that of the early patriots who won American independence and established American constitutional government. Their movement began as a protest. The Declaration of Independence was essentially a document of protest against the tyranny of King George III. Few people realize that today, because the Declaration was made memorable, not by the recitation of grievances against the King, but by the high principles written into it — giving the protest the dignity of high purpose.

On fields of battle, Americans won the independence they proclaimed in 1776. In 1787, they wrote a Constitution providing a firm foundation for the principles of liberty — perpetuating them for posterity. *All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights* — the Declaration held. The Constitution ordained that government is the creature of the people. Government can give the people no unalienable rights, because these come from God, not government.

That is the rock of principle on which the Parthenon of our liberty was built. Unless the American Independent Party is built on that rock, it will sink quickly into oblivion; and it will deserve that fate.

There are so many similarities between the position of constitutional conservatives today and that of the Founding Fathers that I have empathy with them — especially with old Ben Franklin. I think I know how he felt in Philadelphia during abrasive debate when it appeared that the Constitutional Convention would end in bitter frustration. He sat gazing at an ornate carving on the high back of George Washington's chair. It depicted the sun, just above the horizon. Franklin mused upon its meaning: was the sun rising or setting?

On that day when his hopes were fulfilled — as he watched the delegates go forward to sign

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the Constitution — the old man said quietly to a friend:

"Now, at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

What a glorious feeling of satisfaction!

May the efforts of all gathered here tonight be equally glorified with noble purpose.

You cannot have effective unity of effort, without a common, noble purpose which can be held high — as a banner worthy to be followed by the best of men.

May the sun of our Republic shine brilliantly again!

May God bless you in that resolve!

YOU HAVE HELPED

Whenever I learn of a student, teacher, or minister who sincerely wants my REPORT but cannot afford to subscribe, I see that he gets it. Most of the money for this purpose comes from you who contribute to our Congressional and Libraries Fund. As encouragement to you, I publish below two letters, typical of many I receive every week. I selected these two because they are from students who are themselves contributors to the Fund which makes the REPORT available to others.

From Richmond, Virginia:

"I have been subscribing to your *Report* for two years, and it has been the most valuable literature I have read other than the Bible. As a present junior in high school, I have been confronted with terrifying amounts of communist propaganda supported by the student body, the faculty, and particularly the religion department.

"Your *Report* has been invaluable to me and, I hope, will be the same to others in increasing numbers, hopefully in time to save our country. Please find enclosed a small contribution toward that end."

From Riverside, California:

"Enclosed please find $10 to help with the Congressional and Libraries Fund, or anywhere else needed.

"I can never tell you how much we appreciate receiving the *Report* — but, will give you one 'for instance': I just finished a college history course which touched lightly, incompletely, and erroneously on the Arab-Israeli situation, now current in your report.

"By golly, I learned more from Israel Part I and Part II, than I could glean from the highly touted history books we were using.

"A friend of mine (Police Science major) and I (Electronic Technology), came to three conclusions:

"(1) We were having to do double duty (first: purge the books of all leftist propaganda; then: get down to the nitty gritty of U.S. history).

"(2) We both personally had lived a lot of the more recent history — and, oh boy, did we find errors! We had to make marginal, correctional notes in the books, out of pure disgust.

"(3) Thirdly, and with a sense of irony, we were sorry for the fresh-faced youngster who sat between us during lecture and said, 'Boy, am I glad I'm in college. At least, I'm going to learn the truth!'

"Again, thanks for the *Dan Smoot Report*; for its truth, logic, and fact. Besides being a good reporter, sir, you are a fine historian and humanitarian as well — and that's a *rara avis* these days, in a world of unadulterated rascality.

"God bless you."

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DAN SMOOT REPORT:
6 mos. — $6.00; 1 yr. — $10.00; 2 yrs. — $18.00

Please notify us of any change of address *before* you move. With increased postal rates, we no longer can afford to remail issues returned by the Post Office.

REPRINTS OF THIS ISSUE
(for bulk mailing to one address):

1 copy	$ .25	100 copies	$ 6.50
10 copies	1.00	200 copies	12.00
25 copies	2.00	500 copies	28.00
50 copies	3.50	1000 copies	50.00

Texans Add 4% for Sales Tax
(Add 50¢ for special-handling postage)
THE DAN SMOOT REPORT TAylor 1-2303
BOX 9538 DALLAS, TEXAS 75214

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED